

REMARKS

Claims 8-18 have been cancelled without prejudice and Applicants reserve the right to pursue these or similar claims in future applications. Claims 1-7 are now pending in the application.

Office Action of February 22, 2006.

Applicants have carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action of February 22, 2006, in which the examiner made a restriction requirement and divided the pending claims into four Inventions:

I. Claims 1 to 7 as drawn to a method of awarding a portion of a jackpot amount involving "determining that none of the entries for the occurrence of the lottery game match every number in the first subset of numbers for the entry to a corresponding one of the numbers in the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game; and awarding a share of at least a portion of the jackpot amount to at least a portion of the entries for the occurrence of the lottery game wherein none of the numbers of the first subset of numbers of the entry match any of the numbers in the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game"

II. Claims 8 to 12 as drawn to a method of awarding a portion of a jackpot amount involving "determining that none of the entries for the occurrence of the lottery game match every number in the first subset of numbers for the entry to a corresponding one of the numbers in the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game; randomly selecting a number from the range of zero to one less than the maximum number of numbers in the first subset of numbers; and awarding a share of the at least a portion of the jackpot amount to each entry having the same number of the numbers from the corresponding first set of numbers matching numbers from the second subset of numbers for the occurrence of the lottery game as the randomly selected number from the range of zero to one less than the maximum number of numbers in the first subset of numbers."

III. Claims 13 to 15 as drawn to a method of awarding a portion of a jackpot amount involving "randomly selecting a percentage from the range of zero percent to one hundred percent; awarding a share of the base jackpot amount to each entry matching every number in the first subset of numbers for the entry to a corresponding one of the numbers in the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game; determining a bonus jackpot amount by multiplying the bonus jackpot amount by the randomly selected percentage; and awarding a share of the bonus jackpot amount to each entry matching every number in the first subset of numbers for the entry to a corresponding one of the numbers in the second subset of numbers for the outcome of the lottery game."

IV. Claims 16 to 18 as drawn to a method of awarding a portion of a jackpot amount involving "randomly selecting a first percentage from the range of zero percent to one hundred percent; awarding a share of a first one of the partial jackpot amounts to each winning entry of the award of at least a portion of the jackpot amount; determining a first bonus jackpot amount by multiplying a second one of the partial jackpot amounts by the randomly selected first percentage; and awarding a share of the first bonus jackpot amount to each entry winning entry of the award of at least a portion of the jackpot amount."

Applicants traverse this restriction requirement. Claims 1-18 are all directed methods of awarding a jackpot, or a portion thereof, in a lottery game, wherein a set of numbers selected by a player is compared to a set of number drawn by the lottery game and awards are determined and given to the player according to different rules. Each independent claim, 1, 8, 13, and 16, includes a different aspect of this invention.

Notwithstanding the above traversal, Applicants hereby provisionally elect claims 1-7 to be prosecuted with this application.


Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicants respectfully request the restriction requirement be withdrawn. If necessary, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (404-815-3383) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

No additional fees are believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, including any necessary extensions of time, which are hereby requested to Deposit Account No. 03-0683.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date

3/30/2006

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 30th day of March, 2006.



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